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On the Web at: WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/TXW/INDEX.HTML

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WDTX FEDERAL FUGITIVE CAUGHT LAST NIGHT IN DETROIT, MICHIGAN

(AUSTIN, TEXAS) Last night, Deputy United States Marshals located and arrested 31-year-old **VALENTE SILLERO-GALINDO** in Detroit, Michigan, without incident. The arrest occurred on Detroit's Southwest side shortly after 8:00pm. Sillero-Galindo fled the Kyle, Texas, area shortly after being indicted by a federal grand jury in May for conspiracy to smuggle aliens and money laundering.

The indictment alleges that from April 1998 until May 21, 2002, Sillero-Galindo and others ran an illegal operation which smuggled into the United States, transported, harbored, and shielded from detection illegal aliens for monetary gain. Authorities allege the organization was responsible for smuggling over 1,000 aliens into the United States during the time of the conspiracy. The indictment states that from late 1998 to mid 2001, the defendants received approximately 150 wire transfers which totaled over \$150,000.

Federal authorities arrested Sillero-Galindo's co-defendants in May. Juan Valente Sillero-Llanos and Silvia Llanos de Sillero remain in custody pending trial. Marcos Sillero-Llanos and Linda Banuelos de Sillero are out on bond pending trial. Jury selection and trial are scheduled for July 29, 2002, before United States District Judge Sam Sparks.

Sillero-Gallindo is expected to have his initial appearance this afternoon in Detroit before a U.S. Magistrate judge. If convicted of all charges, Sillero-Galindo faces a maximum of 90 years in federal prison.

An indictment is merely a charge and should not be considered as evidence of guilt.

This case resulted from an investigation by the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney John Phinizey is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

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